

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR

SUBJ: SHCHERBITSKIY WARNS LOCAL PARTY AUDIENCES ON DANGERS
OF DETENTE

REF: MOSCOW 464

1. UKRAINIAN PARTY LEADER AND CPSU POLITBURO MEMBER
V.V. SHCHERBITSKIY HAS BEEN SPEAKING AT LOCAL PARTY
CONFERENCES IN HIS REPUBLIC WHERE HE WARNS OF THE
NEED TO MAINTAIN POLITICAL VIGILANCE DESPITE THE
CURRENT RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

2. LATEST SUCH STATEMENT BY SHCHERBITSKIY WAS AT
JANUARY 14 PARTY CONFERENCE OF KIEV MILITARY DISTRICT
AS REPORTED IN FOLLOWING DAY'S ISSUE OF PRAVDA
UKRAINY: "OUR ENEMIES ARE TRYING TO USE THE POSITIVE
PROCESSES IN THE RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION
FOR STEPPING UP SO-CALLED ' IDEOLOGICAL PENETRATION.'
IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISES
IN THE BATTLE OF IDEAS. WE MUST RAISE IN ALL WAYS
POLITICAL VIGILANCE."

3. COMMENT: SHCHERBITSKIY GAVE SIMILAR MESSAGES
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IN HIS JANUARY 9 SPEECH AT DONETSK AND HIS DECEMBER

26 SPEECH AT L'VOV (REFTEL). TO DATE, WE HAVE NOT
FOUND SIMILAR WARNINGS ABOUT DETENTE IN LOCAL
ELECTION SPEECHES BY OTHER LEADERS, BUT WE CANNOT
EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY SINCE FEW ARE PUBLISHED.
GIVEN SHCHERBITSKIY'S CLOSENESS TO BREZHNEV THIS
COULD CONCEIVABLY BE SIGNIFICANT. HOWEVER,
IS IS MORE LIKELY THAT SHCHERBITSKIY'S REMARKS
REFLECT LOCAL CONCERNS IN THE UKRAINE. IN ANY
CASE, CENTRAL PRESS HAS NOT BEEN REPLAYING SHCHERBITSKIY'S
ADMONITIONS TO THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
AUDIENCES.
STOESSEL

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